



# Idaho Potatoes

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701

(800) 691-9987 • (208) 334-1507 • (208) 334-1114 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



Released: December 10, 2010

Media Contact: Vince Matthews

## IDAHO RUSSET POTATO SIZE AND GRADE SUMMARY – 2010 CROP

The statistics in this publication were obtained from the 2010 Potato Objective Yield Survey. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service would like to thank all growers who allowed the enumerators to dig samples in their fields. Without the voluntary cooperation of the farmers themselves, obtaining valid and timely agricultural statistics would be much more difficult. Because the samples of potatoes were dug by hand, the size and grade statistics in this document do not reflect harvesting or handling damage.

The survey results showed for the 2010 crop, 20.0 percent of the russet potatoes were at least ten ounces, down from 23.2 percent that reached that size in 2009 and 28.1 percent that reached that size in 2008. Of the Russet potatoes in the 2010 sample, 74.2 percent met the 2.0 inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade requirements for U.S. No. 1 potatoes, down from 76.6 percent last year. Processing grade and U.S. No. 2 potatoes, with a 1.5 inch minimum, accounted for 21.1 percent of the 2010 crop.

### PROCEDURE

The 2010 Potato Objective Yield Survey consisted of 241 samples located throughout Idaho in fields selected in an unbiased and random manner. The selection of sample fields was based on all known potato acreage planted in 2010, with each acre having an equal chance of being chosen. As a result, growers with large acreages were more likely to be selected to participate in this survey. Several sample fields with varieties other than Russet were selected, but only the reports with Russet potatoes were used to compile the data in Tables 1 and 2. For each sample field, two plots were systematically located using computer generated random numbers. Each plot consisted of a twenty-foot section of a row. Digging of all samples occurred immediately preceding harvest or when all vines had died and growth of the tubers was no longer possible. Three hills of potatoes from each twenty-foot row section were carefully dug, counted, weighed, and then graded according to U.S.D.A. standards. Potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter were excluded from this procedure. To measure the harvest loss, post-harvest gleanings were taken for every fourth sample. The gleaning area consisted of two 3-by-6-foot plots, located five paces and five row space equivalents beyond the plots where the potato hills were dug. All potatoes and potato pieces, except whole potatoes less than 1.5 inches in diameter, were collected, weighed, and graded. Geographic distribution of the 2010 sample fields is shown in the following table.

AREA	COUNTIES	NUMBER OF <u>SAMPLE PLOTS</u>
Southwest	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington	26
South Central	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls	57
Eastern	Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida & Power	117
Eastern Seed Counties	Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lemhi & Teton	41

**TABLE 1 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2010 CROP <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	1½" - 15/8"	15/8" - 17/8"	17/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 Oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 oz	14 oz and over	Total
	Percentages (%)													
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	26.0	8.5	8.7	7.1	6.3	5.2	4.1	2.8	1.6	7.6	77.9
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.1	5.6	4.4	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.5	17.3
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	-	0.3	0.2	-	0.1	0.4	4.8
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.2	6.0	4.9	28.5	9.7	9.8	7.9	6.8	6.0	4.6	3.1	2.0	9.5	100.0
<b>EASTERN COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	30.0	9.5	7.4	6.4	5.2	4.0	2.4	1.9	1.5	4.8	73.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.6	7.4	6.8	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.6	22.2
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	4.7
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.8	7.8	7.2	32.7	10.5	8.0	7.2	6.0	4.9	3.1	2.3	1.7	6.8	100.0
<b>EASTERN SEED COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	32.4	10.8	8.3	5.1	4.3	3.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	2.0	69.9
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.9	9.6	7.2	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	-	0.3	1.0	25.3
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	4.8
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	2.0	9.9	7.5	35.0	12.2	9.5	6.0	5.4	3.9	2.0	1.6	1.7	3.3	100.0
<b>TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	29.1	9.4	8.0	6.4	5.4	4.3	2.7	2.1	1.5	5.2	74.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.5	7.2	6.1	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.4	21.1
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	4.8
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.6	7.6	6.5	31.8	10.5	8.8	7.2	6.2	5.1	3.4	2.5	1.8	7.0	100.0
<b>10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	28.5	9.8	6.9	5.0	5.8	4.5	4.0	3.0	2.8	6.3	76.6
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.5	5.4	5.2	1.5	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.6	-	0.4	1.8	19.8
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.3	0.2	-	-	0.5	-	0.1	0.1	0.6	3.6
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.7	5.8	5.4	31.0	10.6	7.9	5.4	6.7	5.8	4.6	3.1	3.3	8.7	100.0
<b>STATE</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	29.0	9.5	7.9	6.3	5.5	4.3	2.8	2.1	1.6	5.2	74.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.5	7.1	6.0	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.5	21.1
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	4.7
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.6	7.6	6.4	31.7	10.6	8.8	7.2	6.2	5.1	3.4	2.5	1.9	7.1	100.0

1/ Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

**TABLE 2 – IDAHO RUSSET POTATOES: SIZE AND GRADE – 2009 CROP <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	1½" - 15/8"	15/8" - 17/8"	17/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 Oz	7-8 Oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 Oz	11-12 oz	12-13 Oz	13-14 Oz	14 oz and over	Total
	Percentages (%)													
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	22.6	9.4	9.0	8.5	6.9	5.3	4.2	3.7	2.4	8.2	80.2
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	0.7	5.0	4.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.6	15.7
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	0.9	4.1
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	0.8	5.4	4.7	24.7	10.3	9.6	9.2	7.4	6.0	4.6	4.0	2.6	10.7	100.0
<b>EASTERN COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	27.6	9.3	8.6	6.4	5.8	4.5	2.8	2.3	2.2	5.8	75.3
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.2	6.1	5.0	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.0	17.5
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.8	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3	7.2
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.4	6.6	5.5	30.4	10.8	9.6	7.2	6.6	5.4	3.1	2.7	2.6	8.1	100.0
<b>EASTERN SEED COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	30.8	10.4	8.1	5.4	5.6	3.3	2.7	1.6	1.2	4.6	73.7
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.1	6.8	6.4	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.4	19.6
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.5	0.6	2.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	6.7
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.2	7.3	7.0	34.1	11.4	9.0	5.8	6.5	3.9	3.5	2.2	1.5	6.6	100.0
<b>TOTAL OTHER COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	26.8	9.5	8.6	6.8	6.1	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.1	6.3	76.4
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.1	5.9	5.1	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.2	17.4
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	6.2
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.3	6.4	5.5	29.5	10.8	9.5	7.5	6.8	5.3	3.5	3.0	2.4	8.5	100.0
<b>10 SOUTHWEST COUNTIES</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	18.6	9.1	8.5	6.5	7.1	5.8	3.9	5.2	3.2	14.2	82.1
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	0.9	3.4	3.3	1.3	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.6	14.7
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.1	3.2
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.0	3.9	3.8	20.7	10.0	9.2	7.8	7.9	6.5	4.2	5.8	3.3	15.9	100.0
<b>STATE</b>														
U.S. No. 1 (2" min) <sup>2/</sup> .....	-	-	-	26.5	9.6	8.6	6.8	6.1	4.5	3.2	2.7	2.1	6.5	76.6
U.S. No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ min) <sup>3/</sup> .....	1.0	5.8	5.1	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.3	17.3
Cull <sup>4/</sup> .....	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	6.1
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	1.2	6.3	5.5	29.2	10.8	9.5	7.5	6.8	5.3	3.6	3.1	2.4	8.8	100.0

<sup>1/</sup> Gross yield basis.

<sup>2/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>3/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

<sup>4/</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

**TABLE 3 – IDAHO POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS  
PER ACRE BY TYPE 2009 & 2010 CROPS <sup>1/</sup>**

TYPE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		AVERAGE NUMBERS OF HILLS PER ACRE	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Reds	5	5	17,938	17,499
Whites	9	5	12,142	14,200
Yellows 2/		4		17,110
Russets	253	227	12,940	12,948
TOTAL	268	241	13,011	13,137

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

2/ Insufficient number of reports to publish data for 2009.

**TABLE 4 – IDAHO ALL POTATOES: QUANTITY LEFT IN FIELD AFTER HARVEST – 2009 & 2010 CROPS <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA	2009 CROP		2010 CROP	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CWT PER ACRE
Southwest	8	19	6	31
South Central	13	17	14	40
Eastern	31	33	29	29
Seed Co.'s	11	24	8	21
STATE	63	26	57	31

1/ Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post harvest samples.

**TABLE 5 - LONG POTATO (RUSSET AND SHEPODY) SIZE CATEGORIES – SELECTED STATES: 2010 <sup>1/</sup>**

STATE	1½" - 1 5/8"	15/8" - 1 7/8	17/8" - 2"	2" or 4-6 oz	6-7 oz	7-8 oz	8-9 oz	9-10 oz	10-11 oz	11-12 oz	12-13 oz	13-14 oz	14 oz and over
	Percentages (%)												
ID 2/	1.6	7.6	6.4	31.7	10.6	8.8	7.2	6.2	5.1	3.4	2.5	1.9	7.1
MN	2.3	8.0	5.9	28.2	10.5	9.0	8.5	6.7	5.0	4.1	2.8	2.4	6.7
ND	1.4	6.0	3.9	22.8	10.8	9.4	9.0	8.2	6.1	5.1	3.6	2.5	11.2
OR	1.2	4.7	4.2	28.3	11.4	10.2	8.6	7.2	6.0	4.8	3.2	2.4	7.8
WA	0.4	2.3	2.9	22.3	10.3	10.2	8.9	8.1	7.3	5.8	4.0	3.1	14.6
WI	0.6	7.5	6.3	24.6	11.4	10.2	9.0	7.6	5.9	4.1	3.0	2.9	6.9

1/ Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2/ Russets only.

**TABLE 6 – FALL POTATO GRADING CATEGORIES BY TYPE – SELECTED STATES: 2009 AND 2010 <sup>1/</sup>**

AREA AND GRADE	U.S. NO. 1 2 INCH MINIMUM 2/		U.S. NO. 2 OR PROCESSING USABLE 3/		CULL 4/	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
LONG POTATOES	Percentages (%)					
ID 5/	76.6	74.2	17.3	21.1	6.1	4.7
ME 6/	69.8	66.2	19.2	22.5	11.0	11.6
MN	79.9	70.1	15.0	24.2	5.1	5.7
ND	77.7	62.4	17.6	26.5	4.7	11.1
OR	79.6	81.2	15.8	15.8	4.6	3.0
WA	80.6	82.4	15.2	13.5	4.2	4.2
WI	86.2	80.1	13.5	18.5	0.3	1.4

1/ Gross yield basis. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for U.S. #1 or U.S. #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, or Process grade.

5/ Russet potatoes only.

6/ Percent of net yield – adjusted for harvest loss.